

## True Northerner.

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN, MARCH 13, 1874

The following article from the Lansing Republican treats the postage question in so fair and candid a manner and gives much information on a question of considerable importance to the press and people. We ask a careful perusal of the article.

### Postal Privileges.

On this question the Detroit Post says we "are disposed to listen to reason." Of course we are, as soon as there is some reasoning to be listened to. The attack was commenced by the Post and Tribune on the country press as a parcel of "gudgeons," leaving their business to meet in convention and paddle in "the same old water." The Tribune regarded us all as fools, and the Post thought the injustice of the present system was none of our business, although it hurt us at almost every turn. When those papers use reasoning instead of sneering, they will receive a candid hearing. The discussion has done at least one thing for them: it has brought them around to the advocacy of graded postage on newspapers, which if arranged at all equitably would be all the country press expects.

### RESOLUTIONS OF POLICY.

It has been abundantly shown that the resolutions of last year's convention did not meet the views of the late convention, but they were adopted upon the suppression conveyed by a letter of Congressman W. B. Williams, to the effect that the Tyler bill could probably pass without amendment; and this was virtually endorsed by the resolutions as a relief from the existing unfair system, and the only relief we were likely to get. It was also announced that the Secretary of last summer's convention had never sent official copies of the resolutions to our delegation. These facts received no mention in the Detroit papers; and before they say so much about the wrong positions of the Republican, they should rectify some of their own.

### WHY THE CONVENTION WAS CALLED.

Speaking individually, the editor of the Republican called the convention by request of a large number of newspapers, it being his official duty as Secretary of the Association, in concurrence with the President and Treasurer, forming the Executive Committee. He took very little part in the discussion, did not favor the resolutions adopted, but simply desired a reconsideration of the action of the last Congress, whereby these new postal burdens had been cast suddenly and meanly upon the country press by a surreptitious amendment to the Appropriation Bill. This is a point which the Detroit papers entirely ignore. They are willing, it seems, to count for their side a trick which was won by cheating, as no reconsideration would ever have taken place if they could have prevented it.

Now let us see how far we can agree with the Detroit newspapers: for it seems to be a general conference or experience meeting among our brethren in reference to postal inequalities.

### NO FRANKING PRIVILEGE WANTED.

1st. We are not in favor of the franking privilege for Congressmen or public officers on their private business; and for fear of abuses, we say, let it continue abolished altogether. The system practiced in England, however, works well; that is, for all mail matter strictly on Government service to pass free under the frank of a recognized public officer. This saves printing and handling and keeping an account of postage stamps, and setting up and paying for them, which looks very much like a man's charging himself for carrying his own parcels home from the grocery, and taking his money from one pocket and putting it into another, and crediting himself at the close of the operation. If public officers can be trusted to use stamps at discretion, they can certainly be trusted to write their autograph on letters or parcels where the detection of a fraud is so easy. How impossible, for instance, it would be to defraud the mails in the millions of instances of money-order advices from one Postmaster to another; yet they must now go through the solemn formality of using official stamps, consuming cash and time without practical benefit.

### NO FREE EXCHANGES.

2d. We do not ask or wish for any exchange of newspapers, but are willing to pay postage on all the exchanges we receive, and do not receive any more than we need. At times it is very important to have a newspaper from some given place, and the lack of it would be felt more than the yearly postage and the difference of price (if any) between such paper and our own.

### GRADED NEWSPAPER POSTAGE RIGHT.

3d. We think there should be a properly graded system of postage on newspapers, estimated by weight and distance. This is where the pinch comes. Let the weight be restricted to two ounces and all papers above that pay double. Let the distance be limited to 200 miles and all above that pay double. We know that an exact graded system cannot be carried out. Yet there is rank injustice in carrying a paper like the New York Independent to California for the same price that the Leslie Herald is brought to Mason. The distance is 275 miles greater and the weight three times as much—therefore an exactly just graded system would make the postage on the New York Independent \$165 a year! If the present rate of five cents a quarter for all weekly newspapers, regardless of size or dis-

tance, is to continue, then—as has been urged by many of our cotemporaries—a practical graduation for the country press to go through the postoffice window would be not even one cent a year. Clearly an exact graded system is impracticable.

### FAVORITISM IN FREE DELIVERY.

4th. As to the free delivery in the cities. The Post and Tribune both contend that we take a wrong view of it, because they say the cities pay more than their own expenses. But so does Lansing return to the Department nearly \$9,000 per annum after paying all expenses; yet she is denied carriers for free delivery. An arbitrary rate of population (20,000) is fixed, and no matter how small the postal business of a city having that number or how large the postal business of one having a less number, carriers are only provided in the former.

The Post says that the expenses of free carriers are \$1,400,000 a year instead of \$1,700,000, as we stated. Our figures were taken from the 17th volume U. S. Statutes at large, page 557. We naturally supposed that all the appropriation was expended, for such is the case generally. But after looking in vain in the Detroit dailies for the last annual report of the Postmaster General, we found it in the Republic Magazine for December, 1873; and the amount stated there as paid to carriers, including incidental expenses, is \$1,422,495, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873. While the Post was correcting our error, it might have stated the exact figures, and given us the benefit of the \$22,495 difference. The average cost per piece for handling is stated at 3.8-10 mills. This shows that where a three-cent stamp is put on a letter to be delivered in one of these favored cities, it takes almost 4 mills, or 12 per cent. of the sum the Government gets, to place it in the hands of the party to whom it is addressed.

### COST GREATER THAN RECEIPTS.

The amount of postage reported on local matter in cities having free delivery is \$1,112,251. The difference between the cost and the receipts is \$310,224. Therefore the people of the whole country are taxed at least this amount, according to the Postmaster General's report, to place mail matter free in the hands of city people. He says that the expense of the system at each office is paid out of the revenue of that office; but there must be a good many offices which do not pay, for otherwise where would the \$310,224 be required? Besides, there is no evidence that the salaries of clerks who handle this local matter, stamp the dates and deface the postage stamps on it, are paid out of the free-delivery system. If they are, it is still a burden of \$310,224 on the people of the whole country; and if they are not so paid, then the burden is a good many thousand dollars heavier.

### THE "DROP" LETTER BUSINESS.

It is wrong to count all the income from local or "drop" letters as earned by free delivery. That system has doubtless increased the "drop" correspondence; but there were "drop" letters by the million prior to any free delivery, and the city of Lansing last year paid nearly \$400 "drop" postage, with no free delivery, but the tramp-tramp of everybody going to the postoffice. From the \$1,112,251, all credited to free delivery, should be deducted that proportion which would come from "drop" matter if there were no free delivery; and it could not fall short of 20 per cent. This increases the actual public burden of free delivery \$222,450 more, or a grand total of about \$532,000, besides the extra expense of handling, stamping dates, and cancellation of stamps, which duty we understand the carriers never perform.

### LOSS FROM POSTAL CARDS IN CITIES.

The "drop" letters which are delivered by carriers all pay two cents by stamps instead of one cent, the rate charged on "drop" letters in places having no free delivery. While this swelled the receipts during the last year, and justifies in some sense the claim that the cities pay for their own free delivery by double postage, yet the postal-card system—which has been in operation since July 1st, and which now engrosses a large part of the local mail service—is a heavy burden to the whole country. For if there are 25,000,000 postal cards distributed through the cities having free delivery, the net receipts of the Government would be only \$215,500. But if the same number of "drop" letters paying two cents each were delivered, the Government would receive \$500,000, less the trifling cost of the two-cent stamps. In one case the Government furnishes the postal cards at a cost to the Treasury of about \$1.39 per 1,000. In the other case the letter-writer provides his own paper and envelopes. Here is a drain during the last eight months of more than half the revenue coming from local mail service in the large cities, with the likelihood of increased expense from more carriers being required.

### LOSS OF BOX-RENT.

The carrier system has almost wiped out the postoffice boxes. This has been done intentionally, for the postmasters everywhere have encouraged the people to receive their mail by carriers rather than hire boxes, the two systems being deemed incompatible. In Lansing the net revenue from postoffice boxes is about \$1,200 a year. At the same ratio according to population in Detroit it would be \$15,000, and in New York city over \$100,000 a year. Doubtless in all the cities where there is now free delivery, \$500,000 might be realized from postoffice boxes managed upon the old plan. Half of this would be clear profit, but it is dropped as antiquated

in comparison with the carrier system. By just this difference of \$250,000 (allowing that the clerk-hire to assort the letters into boxes would cost half as much as the free carriers who do their own assorting), the people of the whole country are burdened to carry letters to the privileged 6,226,850 living in cities of over 20,000 inhabitants. If they did not have such privilege, they would now be hiring \$500,000 worth of boxes and paying the Government for them to-day. But the postal benefits would be greatly reduced to our city friends. We are not arguing for such reduction,—only showing them how blest they are, and that the upper dog in the fight should not be too arbitrary. (Every place yielding \$4,000 or more net revenue a year must pay all its box-rents to the Department.)

### WHAT STRANGE "EQUALITY."

Now, as to the working of the free delivery system towards individuals or firms who receive mail matter. This is an indisputable test of its fairness.

We resided six years ago in the city of Detroit, over one mile from the postoffice. Our letters and papers were brought to our home (as they are now carried nearly three miles to other parties), and we were never asked for nor paid one cent excepting on an occasional undercharged letter or some newspaper by the quarter. Here in Lansing, our letters come with the same stamps that were required in Detroit; but we must now send to the postoffice several times a day, and pay box-rent besides. Whenever letters are to be mailed they must be carried to the postoffice, whereas in Detroit we only needed to step to a street-corner to find a letter box. People may live ten years in a city, and carry on a large correspondence, and never need to know where the postoffice building is, if they buy stamped envelopes. But in the country, millions of people must travel between their homes and the postoffices every day. All the regular weekly newspapers must be paid for at five cents a quarter or fraction of a quarter, and here they are only passed through the delivery window to carriers, or put in the postoffice boxes, which if used must be paid for extra; while in the large cities they are carried and distributed free to persons sitting in their offices or parlors.

Have we done anything, as a citizen of the United States, by removing from Detroit to Lansing, that privileges which we enjoyed in one place should be cut off in the other, when both places pay a surplus to the Postoffice Department? Can the Detroit Post and Tribune work through this conundrum without any "confusion of ideas?"

The practice of free delivering country newspapers at the houses of city subscribers, after five cents a quarter postage is paid, while city papers pay the same for bare delivery, only shows the necessity of rearranging the postal rates. It is not our funeral; but we are willing to join in the obsequies of any public injustice or inequality, never having been the advocate of special privileges to any section of the press or any class of citizens, to the detriment of others.

### NO JEALOUSY OF CITIES.

Nor are we at all jealous of the circulation or influence of the city press. The country press, wisely and energetically conducted, can be self-supporting; and the reading of either city or country papers increases an intellectual appetite and makes more readers of newspapers of both kinds. As an exactly impartial postal system is impossible, we want our city friends to admit that the 32,329,133 people of the United States who do not live in cities of over 20,000 inhabitants have some rights that ought to be respected and some claims that ought to be granted.

The Utica Herald says two old women troubled a conductor on the Central road, one protesting that she should die if the window were open, and the other protesting against shutting it, when an experienced traveller advised the conductor to settle the matter in this way: "Open the window and kill one, then close it and kill the other, and we shall have peace."



**BRIGGS HOUSE,**  
Randolph St. and Fifth Ave.,  
CHICAGO.

This well-known Hotel, rebuilt upon the old site, has all the modern conveniences—Elevator, Bath Rooms, Hot and Cold Water in each Room, Elegantly Furnished, and located in the business centre of the city.

TERMS: \$3.00 Per Day.

RICKARDS & HUNTOON, Proprietors.

### NEW MARKET!

Messrs. Taylor & Myers  
having rented the Market at the CORNER OF KALAMAZOO AND OAK STS., propose to continue the same and run it in connection with the Market one door east of the Dyckman House. Having become convinced that both Markets can be

### RUN IN CONNECTION

at much less cost than separately, and that the people can be furnished with

MEATS AT LOWER PRICES.

## GEO. H. OCOBOCK,

DEALER IN

## Family Groceries, PROVISIONS,

Farmer's Produce,

AND

## BEST FAMILY FLOUR.

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OF A VERY SUPERIOR GRADE, AT AS LOW PRICES AS ANY PLACE IN TOWN.

Cash Paid For Country Produce.

TRY MY EXCELLENT TEAS, WHICH I AM SELLING VERY CHEAP.

Goods Delivered in the Corporation

FREE OF CHARGE.

CALL AND GET OUR PRICES

Geo. H. Ocobock.

Dated, Paw Paw, March 13, 1874.

## FLOUR!

G. W. LONGWELL & CO.,

will from this date sell first

quality of Flour, Manufactured

at the Big Mill, for \$8.00 per

barrel, and at the same rate for

halves and quarters. 989

## TO THE ELECTORS OF VAN BUREN CO.

At the annual session of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, held at the Court House, in the Village of Paw Paw, in said County, on the 21st day of October, A. D., 1873, the following resolution was adopted:

Supervisor Williams moved the following amendment to the report of the Committee on County Buildings: That the County raise the sum of two thousand dollars for the purpose of constructing a fire and burglar proof building for the offices of Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Judge of Probate and County Treasurer on condition that the citizens of Paw Paw and vicinity raise the sum of five hundred dollars to assist in the erection of such building, and that the same be referred to the people at the next spring election for their approval, which motion prevailed.

Notice is hereby given that at the general Election, to be held in said County, on Monday the 6th day of April, A. D., 1874, the question of raising the amount recommended in said resolution will be submitted to the legal voters of said County.

Dated Paw Paw, March 3d, 1874.

9884 SAMUEL HOLMES, Co. Clerk.

**Mortgage Sale.**—Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage, whereby the power therein contained to sell has become operative, executed by Leander Devall, and Sarah Devall, his wife, of Van Buren County, in the State of Michigan, to Charles Davenport, of the State of New York, bearing date, the twenty-fourth day of April, A. D., eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren, in said State of Michigan, on the hundred and sixty-nine, in Liber X of mortgages, on page 411, upon which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy-nine dollars (\$279.00) and no suit or proceedings at law having been instituted to recover any part thereof, Notice is therefore hereby given, that on Thursday the eleventh day of June next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, I shall sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, (sale to take place at the front door of the Van Buren County Circuit Court House, in the Village of Paw Paw) the premises described in said mortgage, (or so much thereof as shall be necessary to satisfy the amount due on such mortgage, with ten per cent interest, and legal costs, together with an Attorney fee of fifty dollars, covenanted for therein,) that is to say, the following piece or parcel of land, situated in Van Buren County, in the State of Michigan, viz: The south-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section twenty (20) in Township one (1) south of range fifteen (15) west, containing forty acres more or less.

Dated, Kalamazoo, March 12th, A. D. 1874.

CHARLES DAVENPORT, Mortgagee.

R. & J. D. Burns, Attorneys for Mortgagee.

**Mortgage Sale.**—Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage whereby the power therein contained to sell has become operative, executed by Henry Hooker, of Kalamazoo County, in the State of Michigan, to Gilbert Mitchell, of said County and State, bearing date, the eighteenth day of September, A. D., eighteen hundred and seventy-one, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Van Buren, in said State of Michigan, on the fifth day of February, A. D., eighteen hundred and seventy-two, in Liber one of mortgages, on page 562, upon which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of One Hundred and Sixty-two dollars and twenty-five cents, (\$162.25) being the first instalment of principal and all interest and no suit or proceedings at law having been instituted to recover any part thereof, Notice is therefore hereby given, that on Thursday the eleventh day of June next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, I shall sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, (sale to take place at the front door of the Van Buren County Circuit Court House, in the Village of Paw Paw) the premises described in said mortgage, (or so much thereof as shall be necessary to satisfy the amount due on such mortgage, with ten per cent interest, and legal costs, together with an Attorney fee of fifty dollars, covenanted for therein,) that is to say, the following piece or parcel of land, situated in Van Buren County, in the State of Michigan, viz: The south-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section twenty-two (22) in Township one (1) south of range sixteen (16) west, containing forty acres more or less.

Dated, Kalamazoo, March 12th, A. D. 1874.

GILBERT MITCHELL, Mortgagee.

R. & J. D. Burns, Attorneys for Mortgagee.

## F. M. HUNGERFORD & CO.,

General Produce,

Commission Merchants,

And Dealers in

Hops, Green & Dried Fruits,

etc.

Office, 135, Bates St., Opposite Market.

(REFERENCES BY PERMISSION.)

L. W. Heath, Commission, Lawrence, Mich.

C. G. Hampton, 536 Third St., Detroit.

Truman Hungerford, Watertown, N. Y.

L. W. Burns, Sugar Refinery, N. Y. 981m3.

## Kilburn & Hudson

WE ARE NOW RECEIVING

## 5000 Rolls

## Wall Paper

ALL

NEW PATTERNS.

ALSO, OUR

## SPRING STOCK

OF

## White Lead,

LINSEED OIL,

BRUSHES,

VARNISHES,

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Our Celebrated Brand

OF

## STRICTLY PURE LEAD,

Which we have sold for the past two years has proved satisfactory in all cases.

\$20 in GOLD given for every Ounce of Adulteration in each Keg.

## PAINTS

Mixed to Order

OF ANY

## COLOR OR SHADE.

## DRUGS OF ALL KINDS.

## SCHOOL

## BOOKS!

## Groceries,

## Teas,

## Sugars,

## &c. &c

Paw Paw, Mich.

## HURRAH!

Hurrah, Hurrah!!

Now is the accepted time!

Delays are dangerous!

## Real Estate.

## MONEY

—AND—

## VALUABLES,

To be given away.

Who ever heard of the like before? No discrimination of persons; the poor as well as the rich stand an equal chance of being made rich in a moment. For the small sum of

TWO DOLLARS,

We will furnish you One Year's Subscription to the following Newspapers: True Northerner, Paw Paw Courier, South Haven Sentinel, Detroit Post, New York Tribune, New York Sun, Chicago Times, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Inter Ocean, and give you a Ticket in the Grand Distribution of Prizes, to take place at

LAWRENCE, April 15, 1874.

Look at the

## GRAND SCHEDULE

OF PREMIUMS.

First Capital Prize, 1 Store and Lot, Store nearly new, Two Stories High, Twenty-three feet Front by Fifty feet; Deep, and finished in good style. \$2,200 00  
2 Village Lots at \$75 each. 150 00  
1 Grand Cash Prize. 100 00  
1 " " " 50 00  
1 " " " 25 00  
5 Cash Prizes, \$10 each. 50 00  
10 " " " 5 each. 50 00  
50 " " " \$2 each. 100 00  
75 " " " \$1 each. 75 00  
400 Prizes of Merchandise, \$1.50 each. 600 00  
1000 " " " \$1 each. 1000 00  
1200 " " " 50c each. 600 00  
Total Cash Value of Prizes. \$5,000 00

Making a Grand Total of

2,700 Prizes,

Or Every Other Ticket a Prize.

The Merchandise will consist of Table and Pocket Cutlery, Pictures and Yankee Notions. Each and every article shall be of value as represented and of every day use in every household.

Do not fail to improve the present time to renew your Subscriptions to your Newspaper, as we propose to make such arrangements as will give us the privilege to take your subscription to any Newspaper in the United States.

### REFERENCES:

We give you as Reference that you shall be fairly dealt by, the names of the following Gentlemen:

C. W. Fisk, President 1st Nat. Bank, Decatur, Ga. Duncombe, Cashier do  
Hon. J. B. Upton, Attorney at Law. Bangor.  
Calvin Cross, Attorney at Law. Paw Paw.  
K. W. Noyes, Register of Deeds. do  
O. W. Rowland, Attorney. do  
S. T. Conway, Editor Northern. do  
A. S. Hawkins. Physician. Lawrence.  
E. S. Cleveland, do  
S. Rowe, do  
O. E. Wiggins, do  
E. E. Chadwick, Merchant. do  
J. M. Fisk, do  
H. M. Marshall, do  
J. F. Barrows, do  
Sam. G. Mather, Hotel. do  
B. M. Williams, Notary Public. do  
And a host of others in every town in Van Buren County.

All Communications to be addressed to

G. A. CROSS,

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Lawrence, Mich.

Agents Wanted.